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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9870
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0804

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 001106

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2016
TAGS: [PREF](#) [SMIG](#) [GT](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: DEMARCHE ON RESETTLEMENT OF CUBAN
MIGRANTS

REF: STATE 78762

Classified By: CDA Bruce Wharton, Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) PolOff delivered reftel talking points to Guatemalan Foreign Ministry U.S. Desk Officer Sandra Jovel on May 31 and met June 2 with MFA Deputy Director for North American Affairs Jorge Figueroa to further discuss the points. Figueroa expressed GOG willingness to be helpful on the issue but noted that possible acceptance of Cubans raised multiple legal issues that would require careful study. He specifically cited the request to allow Cubans to work, stating that granting of such permission was usually very selective and involved complex bureaucratic procedures. Figueroa promised a response to the demarche at the conclusion of the legal review.

12. (C) Comment: The Foreign Ministry's legal reviews are time-consuming. At the end of the process this will be a political rather than legal decision, and the GOG may be reluctant to give the appearance of doing a favor for the USG at the same time that it is receiving domestic criticism for not acting more forcefully on behalf of Guatemalan migrants in the United States.
Wharton